

April 1

Dear Horatio:

I get a big kick out of your letters. What I wouldn't give to be with you over there, out in the big garbage dump there, Flushing I think they call it, or have I got the wires crossed. Anyway, I am glad you got there safely. I've been worried about your travelling alone---thought you might get lost somewhere out there in the desert or the prairies, or might have fallen prey to one of them city slickers. Wear your red flannel underwears and mind, don't catch cold. And put on them galoshes or rubber shoes or whatever they are called out there in the God forsaken city, full of fallen women and Dutch Schultz and Jimmy Hines. Well, kidding aside, I sure wish I could be there with you, out of this dump here; this is an old maid's town; they just put on the pants on the Follies here and cut the show to a little over an hour. Some old foggies complained. Been to the Minsky's yet?. Back again to 'Frisco. You know that bridge crossing the lagoon at the Fair, near the Japanese pavilion, right near the Auditorium where the Follies are being staged. Well, people rent boats on the lagoon and they are propelled by feet, and the boats pass under the bridge. When some young thing with shapely legs gets on the boat and starts pumping the propeller with her feet, and passes under the bridge, you out to see the crowd gather on the bridge to watch her legs go up and down; what with short skirts. Podden me, you don't like to hear talk about girls.

I see you have been faithful to the anti-comintern pact and allied with Germany. I would be a novel experience to stay with a foreign couple; I imagine they are old country folks. I think you will find New York more cosmopolitan than San Francisco, in spirit as well as in fact; it has more conglomeration of different nationalities. "Life" way back showed a party of bicyclists from New York. There was a Japanese couple in there eating lunch with chopsticks, young couple too. You hardly see such a sight among the young people out here, more sensitive I imagine.

I've been to the Fair a couple of times. Somehow I don't seem to get overly excited about things there. But the Japanese pavilion is a honey. Seems very popular too. And that garden. I intend to take pictures of it from different angles to help in landscaping my backyard. Some of those rocks are really lovely. I think after the fair they will leave the rocks here instead of shipping them back. I think I'll try to get a few if I can. The water around the pavilion could be bluer. It's a dirty grey, and not very pleasing. I had a nice view of the pavilion, -but for a photo, but there was a pagoda-like spire towering in the background. Those Chinamen are always getting into your hair. By the way, the Chinese Village doesn't seem to be very hot. They had some trouble a few weeks ago. Some of the concessioners in the village kicked about the admission to the village and went on strike. Said 25¢ admission to the village kept out people and the concessioners inside were losing money. Local Japanese newspaper was commenting on the Chinese ricksha business. Said Japanese are carefull about showing the Occident anything suggesting low status

of living such as is suggested by man's pulling richshas. But that the Chinese are interested only in money making. Japanese exhibit is very dignified.

Buds are beginning to swell here in my garden. The buds on my camellias have opened. The dogwood died on me. I dug it up the other day and found the roots all rotten. I've had frequent trouble with the root rot. Same with the peonies; I almost lost them. And those goyo matsus. I transplanted them from the pots--the leaves were turning yellow. My magnolia has two flowers--hoo-ray! But the flowers are only half the size. I guess it hasn't fully recovered from transplanting last year. The irises I got from your place are doing all right.

I've been going down to the shop and fixing up the place a little, while toying with the idea of doing some color work, particularly specializing in taking color photos of flowers. There may be some good prospects in the field. I think black and wh. ~~flowers-e-~~ pictures of flowers are unsatisfactory. Color flowers pictures by engraving process is all right if you want mass production as in catalogue, but for making few nice pictures, I don't think it is practical. So I feel that there is a room for a process that can yield nice color prints from one to a half dozen or more with reasonable prices. The idea is to use Kodachrome transparencies, which now come in sizes up to 8 X 10. I think the nurserymen want color pictures, but I don't think they are as popular as could be. What's keeping such pictures from being more in demand? Or isn't there any demand for them aside from catalogue making? Prices or technical difficulty such a lack of faithful color reproduction? Anyway, I think it might be interesting to look into it.

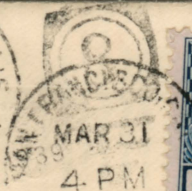
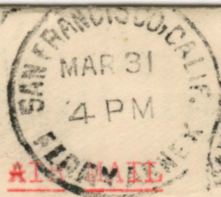
I advertised as a gardener, not full time, but for piece work. But no go so far. I guess I'll have to go around looking for it, pushing door bells; I probably won't. It's so comfortable just loafing, ho-hum. Can you imagine me working? But seriously though, I've been toying with ideas, and they have no relation at all to my college education either. One of these days I may lay an egg, then you will hear my cackle all the way to New York. So keep your ears tuned. In the meantime, give a kick in the pants ~~fer~~ to Sakurai for me and you both. Any guy who will turn down my pal is no friend of mine.

Probably you are wondering where you got the monicker Horatio. Haratio Alger to you. If ease you don't know him, look him up in the Library of Congress.

Until next time,

IM

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